

## STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Department of Genetics

Professor Joshua Lederberg

To: Win Tutner

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I would be grateful to you for further information on:

Congressional hearings of the last few years on \*AIR POLLUTION; particularly auto exhausts.

\*Testimony relating to enactment and implementation of the Air Quality Control Act 1967.

Did you see my piece on Nickel in Saturday's Washington Post?

How serious this is really depends very much on the chemical form of the nickel emitted. The people at Sinclair Oil Co. are themselves concerned about this, but it is odd that the product should be widely distributed before the appropriate biological and chemical research is done. Nickel may already be a serious pollutant in New York City and other urban centers; once again we don't know enough about the chemical form of it to be sure of the consequences. A lot of it may come from burning coal. It also comes from spark plugs, the ignition points being rich in nickel, and gradually eroding away.

Thank you

Joshua Lederberg

My interest in this material relates in part to background for a weekly column on "Science and Man" which appears weekly in the Washington POST.